

SILLY SHOPPING TRIPS



It is important for us as families to spend time together and just plain laugh. Between the busy schedules of work, school, church and extra-curricular activities it is important to intentionally plan nights for family fun. Movies, dinners, and games night are all great, but we would like to offer you a few ideas to add to your collection for family fun nights.

The first of our “Family Fun Nights” is a collection of “Silly Shopping Trips”. While all of these are fun and silly, they also can become great teaching moments about stewardship of money, budgeting, teamwork and responsibility.

“FUNNY FOOD FIASCO”

We all like to go out to eat as a family, but it is getting more and more expensive especially if you want to do something more than fast food. Consider taking the money you would spend on a meal out, figuring how much you would normally spend per person and take it to your largest local grocery store instead and have a *Funny Food Fiasco* night. Try to find a store that has a wide variety of foods, especially unusual or ethnic foods that your family may not normally eat.

Either based on team assignments or as individual assignments give out equal amounts of money. Each team/ individual has to purchase the most creative and funny item(s) to be a 3-course meal: appetizer course, the main course, and dessert course, while staying within their budget. Decide on a set amount of time to meet back up at the front or to have to be done. After you are finished, check up and purchase those items. Take home your items and as a family make dinner based off of what you have purchased. Pull out the best china and a tablecloth and enjoy! After dinner take a vote on who was the winner based on creativity, taste, presentation, and so on.

“ALL DRESSED UP AND NO WHERE TO GO”

Bring your camera along for this one, because it going to be memory maker or social media post worthy if you have teens. Without telling your family what you are doing before you leave the house have everyone choose another member of the family to be their “assignment”. Go to your local big department store that has a good selection of clothes both casual and dressy. Tell your family the member of the family that they chose is now their “personal shopper”. Their personal shopper is now going to go shopping for them for 2 complete outfits: one creative and crazy and one serious and dressy. Make sure everyone knows each other’s sizes or before hand make a note card for each member of the family listing all their sizes even including shoes. Decide on the amount of time needed to shop and then send everyone out dividing up as groups or you can even go as a family group. At the end of the time head to the dressing rooms to have a little family “fashion” show, taking turns showing off your outfits. Make sure to take pictures of each outfit so you can create a fun collection of pictures.

“DOLLAR STORE DILEMA”

For fun on a budget consider a silly family shopping trip to your local dollar store. These budget conscience stores are surprisingly full of a variety of things. Before you head out decide on how much money each person can spend. Don’t feel like you have to spend a lot, \$5 a person might go surprisingly far, and that is actually part of the challenge.



Also before you leave decide what you want your assignment or theme to be to see how well your family, teams or individuals can do. Here are a couple ideas or themes:

“Funny Food Fiasco” (see above)- take the dinner on a budget to a whole new level

“Bigger is Better”- see who can buy the biggest item.

“More is Really More”- see who can get the most items for their money. Things like a bag of marshmallows or marble can count!

“Colors of the Rainbow”- individual items that match every colors have to be purchased: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet.

“Robot Creator”- as a team or as a family, buy items that you will buy and take home to build the best and most inventive robot creation.

“MONEY-LESS MALL MADNESS”

For this silly shopping night it is a mix between shopping list and scavenger hunt, and will take a little advanced planning. This time around you will not have to have money or make purchases.

Head to your local mall a day or 2 ahead of time and come with a list of things to create a “shopping list” that your family has to find. Look for a variety of things all around the mall to be found making sure it will take a while. If you make the rule “no running” and you do not “bother customers or employees” most malls will not mind. Here is a list of some ideas that might be great ones for all ages:

How much does a pair of socks cost at (store name)?

Where is the cheapest place at the food court to get a large soda?

What is the biggest size of men’s pants at (store name)?

How many places are there to buy lipstick?

What is the picture in the window at (store name)?

Is there any place to recharge your phone?

Is there any place to buy AA batteries?

How much is a (family’s favorite team) hat at (store name)?

If you were to buy 4 pairs of earrings at (store name) how much would that cost?

What stores would you have to go to purchase shoes for (family member’s name) in their size?

“SHOPPING WITH A PURPOSE”

While this final one is not as silly as the others it still a whole lot of fun for your family. It can still be played as a team or as individual competition. This time around it is shopping for others, with a purpose in mind.

Get a list of items that are needed from a local homeless shelter or food pantry. Create your own list of 10-15 general items of those things that are most needed. Head over to your local grocery store or Walmart and assign a time limit for all the items on list to be purchased.

Once the time is up meet back up at the front of the store. Make sure that everything on the lists have been picked out. Check out based on teams or individuals. The winner is the person/team that was able to get all the items on the list for the least amount of money.

After you are done or sometime in the next couple days take your family over to drop off your items you have purchased to be donated to the organization you had chosen.